

What is Claimed Is

1. A process using dry ice (CO₂, solid carbon dioxide) particles for in-situ cleaning of abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding surfaces which have been loaded up with removed material(s) generated during the sanding, planing and/or grinding procedure, wherein solid CO₂ particles are directed at a high velocity towards the abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding surface and caused to impact the abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding surface in such a way as to remove the contaminants from the abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding surface and result in a clean, or renewed, abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding surface.

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2. Process in accordance with claim 1 wherein suction is applied to the dry ice particle application area during the cleaning process to capture, contain and/or collect the removed contaminants from the abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding surface.

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3. Process in accordance with claim 1 wherein the cleaning area is located in the sanding, planing or grinding equipment so that the abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding apparatus does not have to be stopped or removed from the sanding, planing or grinding equipment.

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4. Process in accordance with claim 1 wherein the sanding, planing and/or grinding apparatus is removed from the sanding, planing or grinding equipment and the cleaning area is located remotely, or at another location, away from the sanding, planing or grinding equipment.

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5. Process in accordance with claim 1 wherein the solid CO₂ particles are directed at a high velocity towards the abrasive sanding, planing and/or grinding surface either with a hand-held dispensing device or a dispensing device connected to an x-axis and/or a y-axis motion control device or apparatus.

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